

and developing their skills, the parents and coaching staff dedicated just as much time supporting the team. As a father of two young boys who love to play sports, I know how rewarding it can be to watch my sons' games. I also know how dedicated parents must be to drive their kids to practice every day, make it to the games, and cheer the whole game through. It is this kind of dedication that builds a support network worthy of a State championship.

Once the playoffs started, the Bobcats' true character shined even brighter as they never lost faith in themselves and prevailed as a team. Their conduct this season should be an example for all other student athletes to follow. I congratulate the Oregon-Davis Bobcats on their State championship and commend them for the example they set for all student athletes who I hope are inspired by their example.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN JOEL TRACHTENBERG

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, as an alumnus of the George Washington University, GW, I wish to take a few minutes to pay tribute to president Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, who is retiring in July after 19 years of dedicated service to GW.

President Trachtenberg became the 15th president of GW on August 1, 1988. A native of Brooklyn, NY, President Trachtenberg came to GW from the University of Hartford, CT, where he had been president for 11 years. Before assuming the presidency of Hartford, he served for 8 years at Boston University as vice president for academic services and academic dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Previously, he was a special assistant for 2 years to the U.S. Education Commissioner, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was also an attorney with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and a legislative aide to former Indiana Congressman John Brademas.

President Trachtenberg has shown a strong commitment to public, civic, and personal service. He worked tirelessly to honor and enhance the relationship between the University and the District of Columbia, supporting and mentoring students, and leading and advocating for reinvention, change and civic engagement.

In 1989, President Trachtenberg created the 21st Century DC Scholars Program—now the Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholars—which has granted almost 100 full scholarships to students from the DC Public Schools to attend GW. Under his leadership, GW's Multicultural Student Services Center has become a strong center for cultural awareness and celebrations, student development, and diversity training. His dedication to civic service is reflected throughout the University, its faculty, and its students.

GW has experienced great changes and improvements under President Trachtenberg's leadership. During his

tenure, the university has seen the number of undergraduate applications triple. Financial aid to students, research funding, and campus infrastructure investment have also significantly increased.

President Trachtenberg has received numerous accolades from across the Nation and abroad for his service, vision, intellect, wit and compassion. His passion and demonstrated commitment to GW and its students, the city of Washington, DC, and the pursuit of lifelong learning are to be commended. I congratulate him on his record of service and outstanding leadership.●

#### HONORING SENATOR ANITA BOWSER

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life of a distinguished public servant, community leader, and friend, Senator Anita Bowser, who passed away at the age of 86 on March 4. Senator Bowser's dedication to the State of Indiana kept her involved in public service throughout her life, and I know that she will be greatly missed.

Senator Bowser was a good and decent woman who dedicated her life to serving others. From her work as a constitutional scholar to her role as a State representative, her career was filled with acts of conscientious service on behalf of friends, family members, and Hoosiers across Indiana.

In 1980, Senator Bowser retired from teaching political science at Purdue University, North Central, and started her career in the Indiana House of Representatives. In 1992 she was elected to the state senate representing LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties. Throughout her career as an elected official, Senator Bowser addressed issues such as prescription drug assistance, the protection of Indiana's telephone privacy list, support for agricultural development, assistance for victims of sexual assault, and tax amnesty for small businesses.

As Governor of Indiana, I had the privilege of seeing firsthand the difference Senator Bowser's efforts have made in our State. The contributions she made through her leadership and philanthropy touched countless lives, and her dedication and strong will made her a role model for a generation of Hoosiers.

Senator Bowser's many accomplishments include being the first woman to act as house speaker, deputy speaker pro-tempore, in the history of the State. In addition, she received numerous honors based on her public service, including the Louis Ingelhart Award for Freedom of Expression, the Amnesty International Abolitionist of the Year Award, and the Robert Dale Owen Legislator Award from the Indiana Civil Liberties Union. She was also a founding member and the first woman to be hired to teach at Purdue University, North Central, in Westville. A veteran lawmaker, Senator Bowser was

widely respected as the conscience of the Indiana State Senate.

Before she died, Senator Bowser was the ranking Democrat on the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee and was a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters Committee, the Ethics Committee, and Education and Career Development Committee. It is a rare person who can make such an impact on so many people over the course of one life. Hoosiers will miss Senator Bowser as a friend, a community leader, and a committed advocate for our State.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Senator Anita Bowser in the official RECORD of the United States Senate for her service to the State of Indiana.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WAYNE TIPPETS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on March 2, 2007, the Boise Veterans Administration Medical Center bade farewell to its director of 14 years, Wayne Tippets. After a dedicated career with the VA spanning 37 years, Wayne retired with plans to travel and spend time with his family. I also understand that his retirement will likely include golfing.

Wayne served with the VA across the Nation, in places such as Iowa, Tennessee and California, before coming back to Idaho in 1993. He recognizes the importance of honesty, a strong work ethic, and the critical importance of competent, compassionate staff, and volunteers to the hospital's success. Wayne has handled the almost doubling of hospital patients over the past 14 years with a sense of pragmatism and drive to continue a history of responsible service to Idaho's veterans. Under his leadership, the Boise VAMC rebuilt and modernized the medical/surgical ward; constructed a behavioral health center, outpatient care building, and specialty care clinic; opened a larger and modernized emergency room; opened a new building in Twin Falls; opened a new administration building; opened a community-based outpatient clinic in Caldwell; and established a patient care access point in Salmon, ID, offering social worker and telepsychiatry services.

Wayne was instrumental in these and other improvements and expansion of VA patient services throughout his tenure in Idaho. I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his long years of service to our Nation's veterans.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 429. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Hugh L. Carey United States Courthouse".

H.R. 430. An act to designate the United States bankruptcy courthouse located at 271 Cadman Plaza East in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse".

H.R. 478. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 1003. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H.R. 1045. An act to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building".

The message also announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2081, the minority leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. WAMP of Tennessee.

The message further announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2081, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. OBEY of Wisconsin and Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 429. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Hugh L. Carey United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 430. To designate the United States bankruptcy courthouse located at 271 Cadman Plaza East in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 478. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1045. An act to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The following bill was read, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 399. An act to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on the Judiciary, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 399. An act to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 710. To amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to paired donations of human kidneys, and for other purposes.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-17. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida relative to urging the Senate to fulfill the requests of the 2005 BRAC Commission by restoring federal funds for military construction; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6008

Whereas, Kansas communities, state officials and the members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation worked hard and the results of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations were the best news for Kansas in years; and

Whereas, these recommendations are resulting in significant increases in personnel and the missions assigned to Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Air Force Base and McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas; and

Whereas, the military commands, the troops and their families coming to work on those missions are facing a situation with much of the funding support originally contained in the Federal Continuing Resolution, and many of the key projects in Kansas, now at risk; and

Whereas, the Federal Continuing Resolution adopted by the United States House of Representatives currently provides less than half of the request for the 2005 BRAC Commission and is more than \$3 Billion short of the amount agreed upon in the FY 2007 Defense Authorization Bill; and

Whereas, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius' Military Council voted on February 7, 2007, to support efforts to restore vital federal military construction funding for Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Air Force Base and McConnell Air Force Base at this time when these military posts are getting new missions; and

Whereas, projects that are potentially at risk at Fort Riley include a Combat Aviation Brigade complex, which would provide additional housing for troops, headquarters and operations buildings and facilities, hanger expansion and a crash rescue fire station (\$152 Million); essential Runway Improvements (\$17 Million); Division Headquarters and Sustainment Brigade Headquarters buildings and facilities (\$87 Million); a state-of-the-art Battle Command Training Center (\$27 Million); and a Health and Dental Clinic (\$17.5 Million) and a Child Development Center (\$5.7 Million) to serve the thousands of troops and their families moving to Fort Riley; and

Whereas, the project for the Joint Regional Corrections Facility (\$68-\$95 Million) at Fort Leavenworth is also at risk; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas considers the federal funding requested for Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Air Force Base and McConnell Air Force Base, based on the recommendations of the 2005 BRAC Commission, to be crucially important to the United States of America, as well as to the State of Kansas: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Kansas strongly urges the United States Senate to fulfill the requests of the 2005 BRAC Commission and the United States Military by restoring federal funds for military construction in the Federal Continuing Resolution to the funding levels agreed upon in the FY 2007 Defense Authorization Bill: and be it further

*Resolved:* That the Secretary of State is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

POM-18. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida relative to urging Congress to support a National Catastrophe Insurance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

#### HOUSE MEMORIAL

Whereas, during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the State of Florida was devastated by eight hurricanes and four tropical storms, causing approximately \$36 billion in estimated gross probable insurance losses, and

Whereas, the hurricanes from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons have produced high winds, coastal storm surges, torrential rainfalls, and flooding resulting in significant damage to Florida and the Gulf Coast states, which has resulted in displacement of policyholders from their dwellings, loss of personal belongings and contents, closing of businesses and financial institutions, and temporary loss of employment and has created numerous health and safety issues within our local communities, and

Whereas, the losses caused by the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons have led to dramatic and economically painful increases in property insurance premiums for Florida's citizens and businesses, forcing many to consider relocating outside the state, and

Whereas, in 1992, Hurricane Andrew resulted in approximately \$20.8 billion in insured losses and was previously the costliest catastrophe in the United States, but Hurricane Katrina alone left the Gulf Coast states with an estimated loss of approximately \$35 billion, and

Whereas, natural disasters continually threaten communities across the United States with extreme weather conditions that pose an immediate danger to the lives, property, and security of the residents of those communities, and

Whereas, the insurance industry, state officials, and consumer groups have been striving to develop solutions to insure mega-catastrophic risks, because hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, typhoons, floods, wildfires, ice storms, and other natural catastrophes continue to affect policyholders across the United States, and

Whereas, on November 16 and 17, 2005, insurance commissioners from Florida, California, Illinois, and New York convened a summit to devise a national catastrophe insurance plan which would more effectively spread insurance risks and help mitigate the tremendous financial damage survivors contend with following such catastrophes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:*

(1) That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to support a National Catastrophe Insurance Program. Policyholders require a rational insurance mechanism for responding to the economic losses